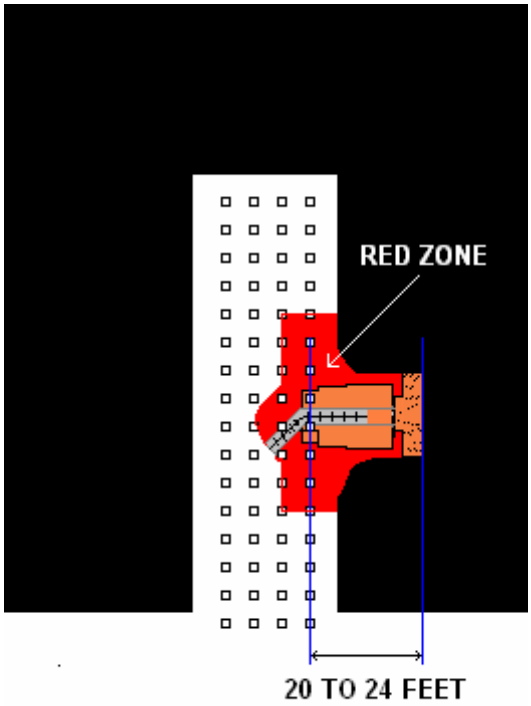
BEST PRACTICES: Turning a Crosscut with a Remote-Controlled CM

#2 - Limiting the depth of the first cut into a crosscut

Of the six best practices identified in PIB No. P03-28, limiting the depth of the first cut into a 90 degree crosscut is the most widely practiced. When operating from the turn side of the continuous miner (e.g. the right side of the machine during a right hand turn), several factors can encourage operators to work nearer to unsupported roof (e.g. visibility issues and equipment crowding). These factors often become more critical as the machine advances into the crosscut. Hence, limiting cut depth into a crosscut helps to insure that the miner operator remain under supported roof.

A few important points to remember when implementing such a plan are as follows

- Depth of the first cut into a crosscut should be established to keep the remote control continuous miner operator, the remote control continuous miner helper, and the shuttle car operators out of the no work/travel zone usually designated as the "Red Zone." Typically, crosscut first cuts are limited to 20-to-24 feet in depth.



- The allowable cut depth into a crosscut can be dependent on the type and configuration of equipment in use (e.g. standard vs. off-standard or end-driven vs. center-driven shuttle cars). Limits should consider these factors to ensure that shuttle car operators remain in a safe operating position.

- Crosscuts angled at 60 degrees do not tend to create the same roof control hazard and are thus generally excluded from cut depth limits along with sections utilizing miners with integral bolters.

- Ventilation plans which specify a maximum curtain “set-back” distance may impact cut depth limits.

- Changing roof and rib conditions and methane liberation will limit the depth of projected cuts.